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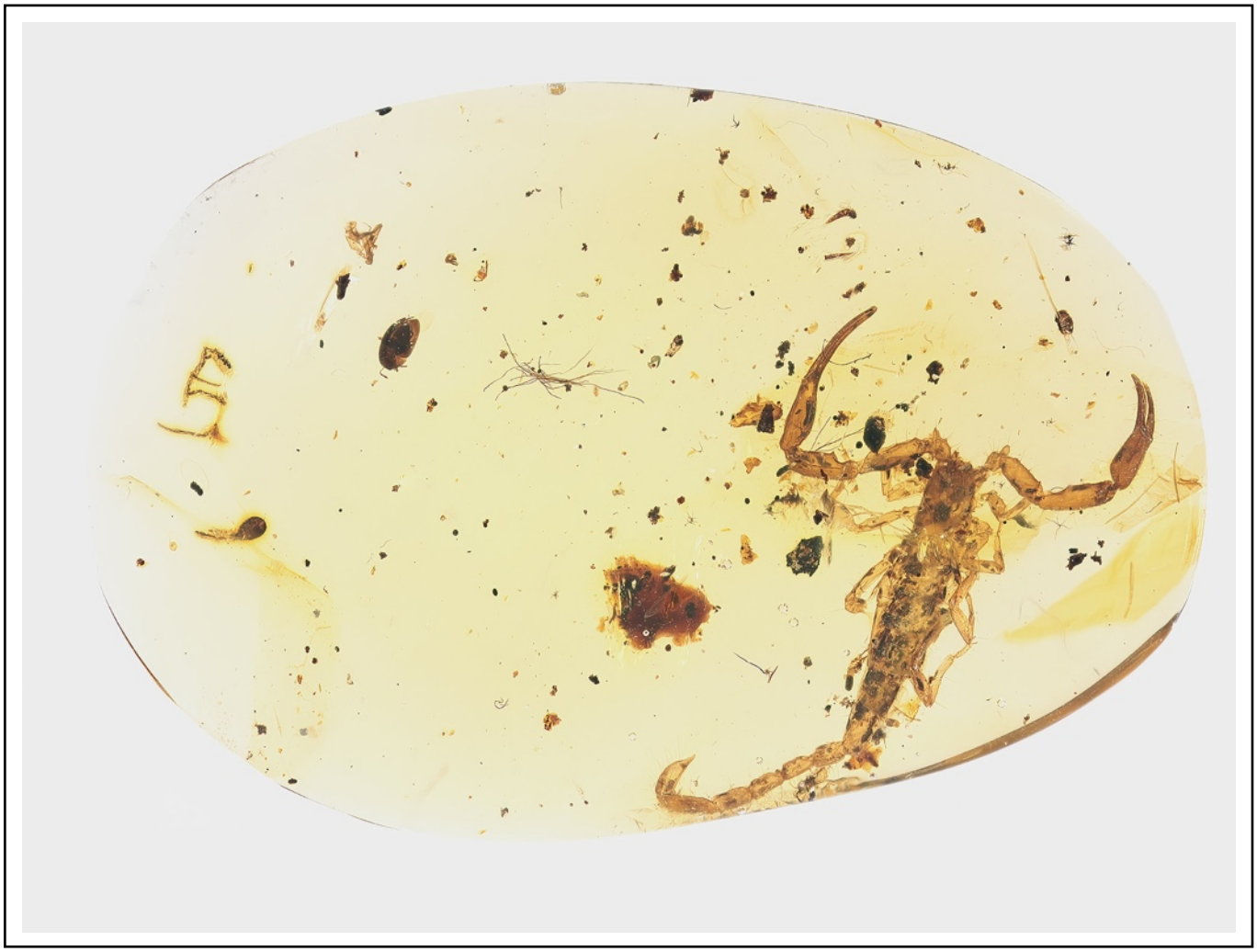

Volume 13
Numéro 02

Janvier 2025

ISSN (Print) : 2269 - 6016
ISSN (Online) : 2970 - 4960
Dépôt légal : Janvier 2025

Faunitaxys

Revue de Faunistique, Taxonomie et Systématique morphologique et moléculaire

ZooBank : https://zoobank.org/79A36B2E-F645-4F9A-AE2B-ED32CE6771CC

Directeur de la publication, rédacteur, conception graphique et PAO:
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Faunitaxys est indexé dans / ***Faunitaxys*** is indexed in:
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Imprimé le 17 01 2025

One more new species for the genus *Cretaceoushormiops* Lourenço, 2018 from Cretaceous Burmite (Scorpiones: Protoischnuridae)

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Keywords:

Scorpiones;
Protoischnuridae;
Cretaceoushormiops;
petersi;
taxonomy;
new species;
description;
variability;
fossil;
Burmite.

Abstract. – The study of one new scorpion specimen from Cretaceous Burmite authorises the description of a new species of *Cretaceoushormiops* Lourenço, 2018 and brings further information about this genus. The new species shows quite distinct characters, particularly the confirmation of a majorante trichobothriotaxy and extremely reduced median eyes. The number of species in this genus is raised to four.

Lourenço W. R. & Velten J., 2025. – One more new species for the genus *Cretaceoushormiops* Lourenço, 2018 from Cretaceous Burmite (Scorpiones: Protoischnuridae). *Faunitaxys*, 13(02): 1 – 6.

DOI: https://doi.org/10.57800/faunitaxys-13(02)

ZooBank: https://zoobank.org/87D2A0CA-7FB8-4487-B7E8-980B0070AE4C

Received: 26/12/2024 – *Revised*: 12/01/2025 – *Accepted*: 13/01/2025

Introduction

The majority of the scorpions described, in more than 20 years, from Cretaceous amber from Myanmar also known as Burmite belong to the families Chaerilobuthidae Lourenço & Beigel, 2011 and Palaeoburmesebuthidae Lourenço, 2015, and these remain the dominant groups within this fauna (Lourenço, 2002, 2023). Among the other groups described from this Cretaceous fauna some appeared as quite remarkable, and this is the case of the genus *Cretaceoushormiops* Lourenço, 2018 created to accommodate a new species *Cretaceoushormiops knodeli* Lourenço, 2018 (Lourenço, 2018). Subsequently, a second species was described for this genus, *Cretaceoushormiops staxi* Lourenço, 2022 (Lourenço & Velten, 2022). This was shortly followed by the description of a third species *Cretaceoushormiops elegans* Xuan, Cai, Zhang & Huang, 2023 (Xuan et al., 2023a). These same authors (Xuan et al., 2023b) also proposed a short description for a possible distinct species which however, was only presented as *Cretaceoushormiops* sp.
As discussed previously (Lourenço, 2023, Lourenço & Velten, 2022), the increased pace of descriptions can equally bring problems for new identifications, having in account that many species can show quite similar morphologies. Consequently, new descriptions also require a very good knowledge of all the fossils previously described but equally of scorpions in general. Only this form of procedure can authorise the creation of new taxa without risks of misidentifications. This point will be further commented in the discussion section.

In the present contribution, the study of a new scorpion specimen belonging to genus *Cretaceoushormiops* Lourenço, 2018 but presenting quite unique characters leads to the description of a further new species. The number of known species in this genus is now raised to four. Once again, the considerable degree of scorpion diversity in the Burmese amber-producing forests is confirmed.

Material and methods

The specimen investigated is originally preserved in a very clear block of pale-yellow amber. The block measured 25 x 18 x 3 mm. Many characters, and in particular trichobothria, are largely visible in the specimen, allowing detailed investigation. Nevertheless, some characters can be more difficult to be interpreted because the specimen suffered a certain degree of dissection (mummification) process within the resin; a situation commonly observed with Burmite specimens. The presence of syninclusions, basically dirt, vegetal debris and a few insects can equally be observed. The schematic drawings provided here are interpretations of what was observable. Illustrations and measurements were produced with the aid of a Wild M5 stereomicroscope equipped with a drawing tube and an ocular micrometer. Morphological terminology mostly follows Hjelle (1990). Measurements follow Stahnke (1970) and are given in mm. Trichobothrial notations follow Vachon (1974). Trichobothria were definitely recorded only when their bothria (areoles) could be observed. Other trichobothria may be suggested by the presence of transverse hairs.

Reviewer: Eric Ythier (*BYG Taxa*, *France*) - ZooBank: http://zoobank.org/06FD0852-A88E-49E5-B8E6-E1494B86C4E1

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Systematic description

Protoischnuridae Carvalho & Lourenço, 2001

Cretaceoushormiops Lourenço, 2018

Cretaceoushormiops petersi Lourenço **sp**. **n**.

(Fig. 1-13)

ZooBank: https://zoobank.org/4FFAF15E-954D-4CB2-9A91-DD491C72645F

Holotype. – A possible juvenile or pre-adult. According to the morphology of pectines and genital operculum, with two oval plates, the specimen can be defined as a male.

Type locality and horizon. – Myanmar (Burma), Kachin; precise locality unknown; Lower Cretaceous.

Name. – Honors Mr Thorsten Peters (Gelsenkirchen, Germany) who arranged facilities for the study of the specimen.

Depository. – The type specimen is deposited in the Collection of Mr Thorsten Peters (Gelsenkirchen, Germany).

Diagnosis for the new species. – Total length 13.18 mm (to notice that the body and mesosoma are strongly elongated). General coloration yellow to bright yellow. Carapace with a straight median concavity; median ocular tubercle markedly anterior to the centre of the carapace and with reduced median eyes; two lateral eyes can be observed. Sternum pentagonal in shape; slightly larger than long. Pectines moderate to large in size with 13-12 teeth; fulcra inconspicuous. Spiracles slightly oval. Metasomal segment I to V rounded and weakly flattened laterally with only dorsal and latero-dorsal carinae. Telson with a long pear-shaped vesicle weakly flattened laterally; no annular ring on the telson is observed. Fixed and movable fingers with one row of small rounded granules, without clear accessory granules; presence of 3-4 spinoid granules on the distal third of fingers; each finger terminating by a moderately to weakly marked spinoid process. Chelicerae not clearly observed but probably showing a dentition similar to that defined for the Scorpionidae sensu Vachon (1963). Tibial spurs absent; tarsi with two rows of thin spines. Trichobothrial pattern similar to type C defined by Vachon (1974) and also illustrated by Lourenço & Monod (1999) for the genus *Hormiops*. On the chela hand, trichobothria **Db**, **Dt**, **Est**, **Et$_{1-5}$**, **Esb**, **Eb$_1$** to **Eb$_3$** and four **V** can be observed. On the chela fixed finger, trichobothria **eb**, **db**, **dsb**, **esb**, **dst**, **dt**, **est**, **et**, **ib** and **it** can be observed. Patella shows **d$_1$** and **d$_2$** on dorsal face; **i** on internal face; on the ventral face 4 **V** trichobothria are clearly observed. Accessory ventral trichobothria have being previously observed for extant Hormuridae species; e. g. *Liocheles penta* Francke & Lourenço, 1991 (Francke & Lourenço, 1991). 10-11 external trichobothria can be directly observed on the patella, but the presence of other transverse hairs suggests a higher number reaching a total of 12-13, which belong to territories **et**, **est**, **esb, em, esb** and **eb**. Femur shows one **d,** one **i** and one **e**.

Description

Coloration. – The scorpion is yellow to pale-yellow; carapace and tergites yellow; metasomal segments I to V yellow; telson yellow; pedipalps and legs yellow to slightly reddish-yellow. The ventral aspect of the specimen is yellow to pale yellow.

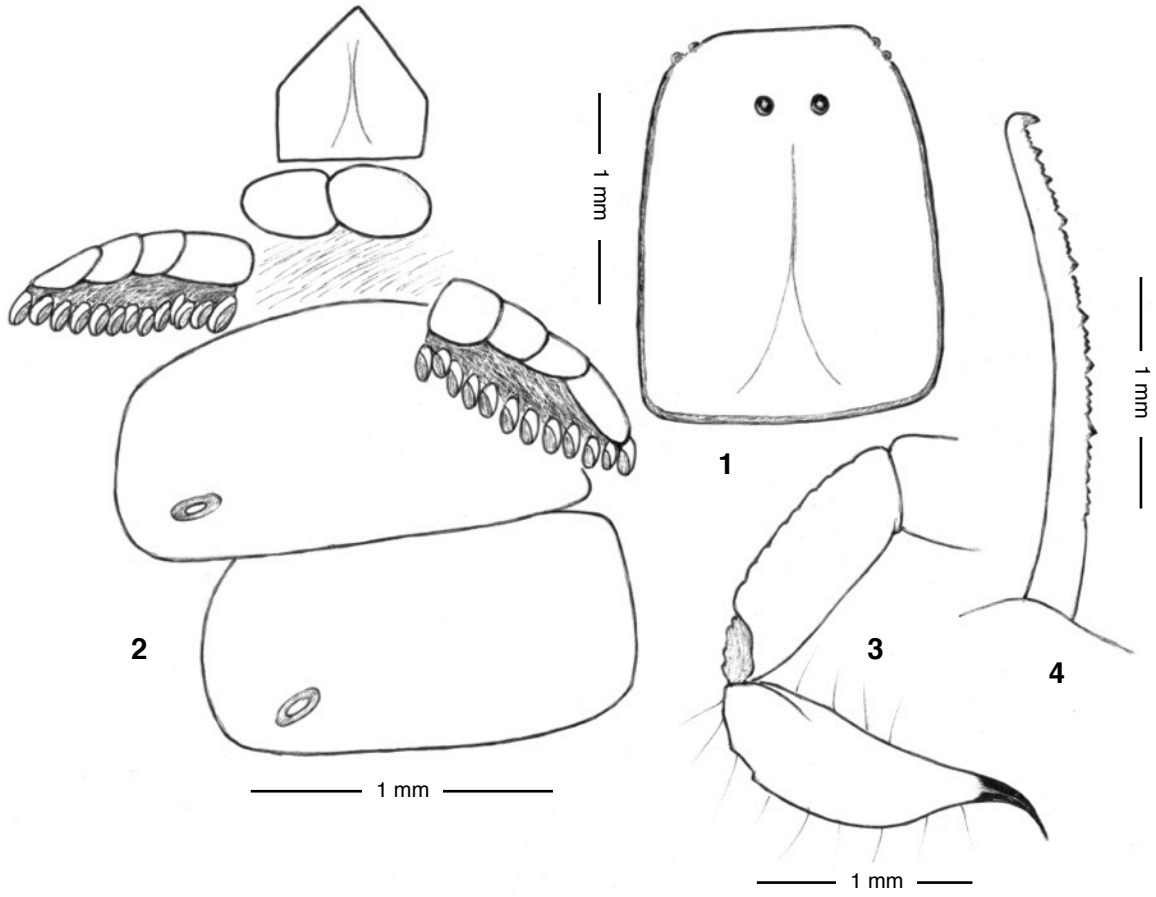

Fig. **1**-**4**. ***Cretaceoushormiops petersi*** Lourenço **sp**. **n**.

1. Carapace, dorsal aspect. **2**. Sternum, genital operculum, pectines and sternites, showing spiracles. **3**. Metasomal segment V and telson, lateral aspect. **4**. Chela fixed finger.

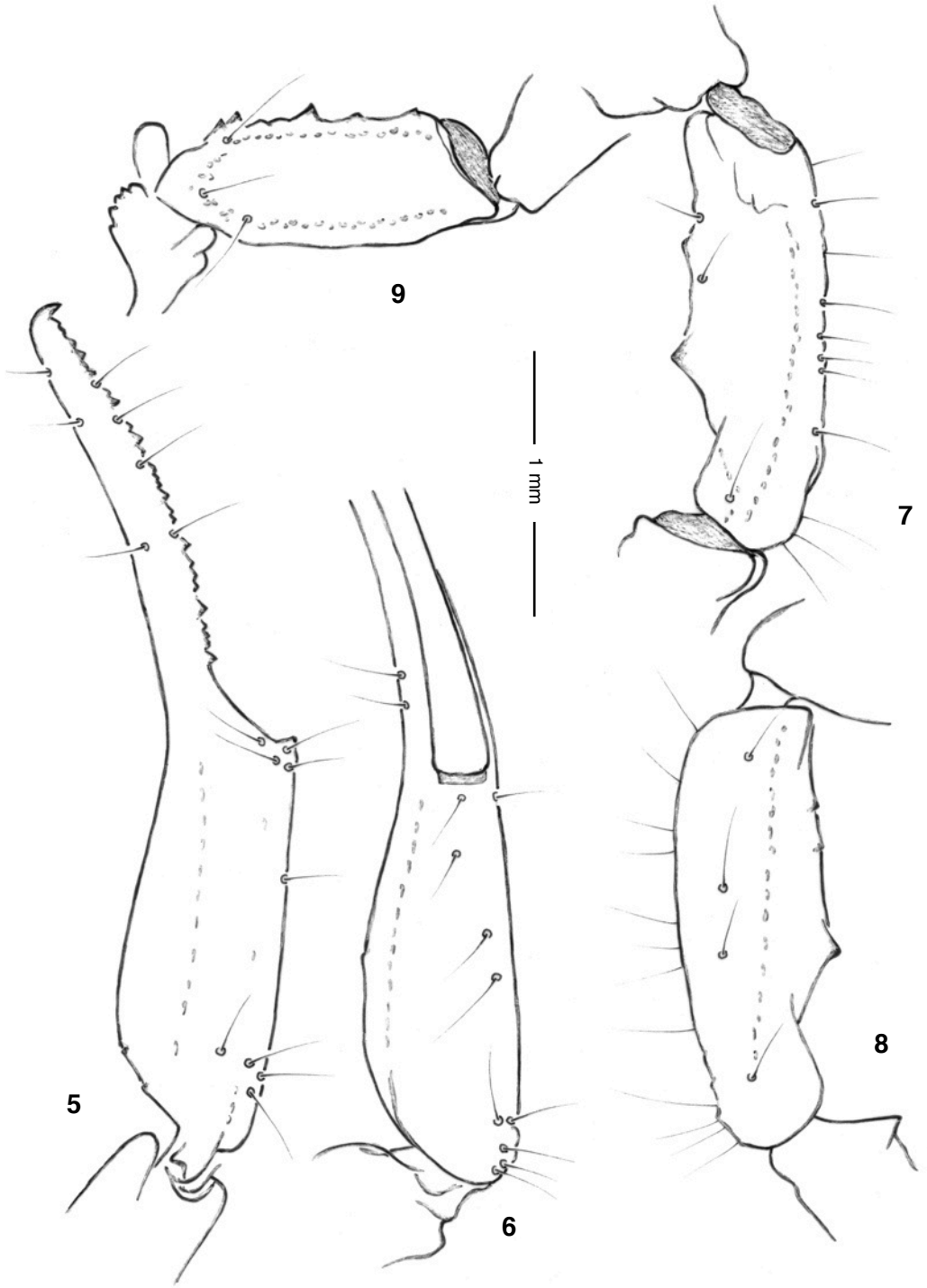

Fig. **5-9**. ***Cretaceoushormiops petersi*** Lourenço **sp**. **n**., trichobothrial pattern.

5-6. Chela dorso-external and ventral aspects. **7-8**. Patella, dorsal and ventral aspects. **9**. Femur, dorsal aspect.

Morphology. – Carapace without granulations, almost smooth; anterior margin straight. Carinae absent; furrows weakly marked to absent. Median ocular tubercle markedly anterior to the centre of carapace; median eyes strongly reduced in size and separated by about two ocular diameters. Two pairs of lateral eyes. Sternum pentagonal, slightly larger than long. Mesosomal tergites weakly observed but without granulations, smooth, with one median vestigial carina; VII with five inconspicuous carinae. Pectines moderate to large in size with 13-12 teeth; fulcra inconspicuous. Sternites smooth with small slightly oval spiracles. Metasomal segment I to V rounded and weakly flattened laterally with only dorsal and latero-dorsal carinae; dorsal carinae of segments I to IV without any spinoid granules; dorsal aspect of segments I to V weakly depressed; setation on all segments weakly marked. Telson with a long pear-shaped vesicle weakly flattened laterally; not granular, smooth; aculeus short and moderately curved; absence of any annular ring on the telson; setation conspicuous. Cheliceral dentition very weakly visible but probably similar to that defined for the Scorpionidae sensu Vachon (1963). Pedipalp femur pentacarinate with some internal spinoid granules; patella with dorso-internal, ventro-internal, and dorso-external carinae; internal face withouy spinoid granules and one weak apophysis. Chela with weakly marked carinae; all faces smooth. Fixed and movable fingers each with one row of small rounded granules; no accessory granules are observable but 3-4 spinoid granules on the distal third of fingers can be observed; each finger terminating by a weakly marked spinoid process; setation of pedipalps weak to moderate. Tibial spurs absent; tarsi with two rows of small thin spines. Trichobothriotaxy similar to type C (Vachon, 1974) of extant Hormuridae scorpions (Lourenço & Monod, 1999). For details refer to the diagnosis.

Relationships. – Most characters observed for this new species allow its inclusion in the genus *Cretaceoushorpiops*. Nevertheless, a few characters such as the presence of thin spines on the tarsi, instead of only setae and the confirmed presence of four ventral trichobothia in the patella, could suggest a generic difference. However, as already stated before (Lourenço & Velten, 2022), the possible creation of a new

genus is here rejected, particularly because these variations have already been observed in extant species of the Hormuridae family, but mostly because the number of studied specimens remains quite limited.

The new species of *Cretaceoushormiops* can however be distinguished from the three others previously described by a number of features:

(**i**) total length 13.18 with a body and mesosoma very elongated,
(**ii**) carapace with a straight median concavity,
(**iii**) median ocular tubercle markedly anterior to the centre of the carapace with extremely reduced median eyes,
(**iv**) telson with a weakly elongated vesicle,
(**v**) patella with four ventral trichobothria.

Comparative morphometric values (mm) between the holotypes of *Cretaceoushormiops knodeli* Lourenço, *Cretaceoushormiops staxi* Lourenço and *Cretaceoushormiops petersi* Lourenço **sp**. **n**.

– ***Total length*** (including telson) 12.83/11.30/13.18.

– ***Carapace***
length 1.80/1.87/1.88,
anterior width 0.94/1.20/0.94
posterior width 1.60/1.74/1.20.

– ***Mesosoma*** length 5.07/3.65/4.94.

– ***Metasomal segments***
I: length 0.67/0.74/0.81, width 0.34/0.47/0.61;
II: length 0.74/0.74/0.81, width/depth 0.34/0.47/0.61;
III: length 0.80/0.81/088, depth/width 0.34/0.47/0.54;
IV: length 0.94/0.87/0.95, depth/width 0.34/0.47/0.47;
V: length 1.27/1.14/1.29, depth/width 0.47/0.41/0.41.

– ***Telson*** length 1.54/1.48/1.62.

– ***Vesicle*** depth/width 0.44/0.41/0.34/0.47.

– ***Pedipalp***
femur length 1.54/1.61/1.34, width 0.54/0.54/0.54;
patella length 1.60/1.68/1.74, width 0.60/0.68/0.55;
chela length 3.14/3.30/3.65, width 0.54/0.76/0.55.
movable finger length 1.87/1.78/2.15

Discussion

Among the known species of the genus *Cretaceoushormiops*, only *C. elegans* was not examined by the senior author, and this for practical reasons; the type specimen being deposited in an official but inaccessible collection. Nevertheless, in account of the characters described by Xuan et al. (2023a), there is no reason to doubt or reject the validity of this species. A number of controversies can however be highlighted concerning the precision definition of the sex of both *C. elegans* and also of the specimens defined only as *Cretaceoushormiops* sp. For instance, *C. elegans* is indicated as a juvenile female, however genital operculum is described as oval in shape (figure 3D of these authors). It is well known that for species of the extant family Hormuridae, males and females are easily identified by the shape of genital operculum; oval or doubled oval shaped defines rather a male while female's genital operculum are more pentagonal to sub-pentagonal (see Lourenço & Velten, 2022). For the second specimen identified as *Cretaceoushormiops* sp., sex is also suggested as a female, but in this case no morphological description or illustration is provided.

As already commented before (Lourenço, 2023) it seems that these authors do not quite possess a precise expertise on scorpion taxonomy or even on scorpions in general. Consequently, they seem to be influenced by neontologists who have little or no experience at all with amber fossils. This clearly appears on their discussion/conclusion on aspects of phylogeny and possible origins of the genus *Cretaceoushormiops* (Xuan et al., 2023a) These sound to a minimum as controversial and are largely based on ambiguous arguments early developed by neontologists which cannot be applied in the present case. Only more precise studies leading to a clear definition of the relationships between *Cretaceoushormiops* and extant Hormuridae can clarify this situation.

Acknowledgements

We are most grateful Alexander Beigel (Aachen, Germany) for the preparation of several of the photos which illustrated the species treated in this article.

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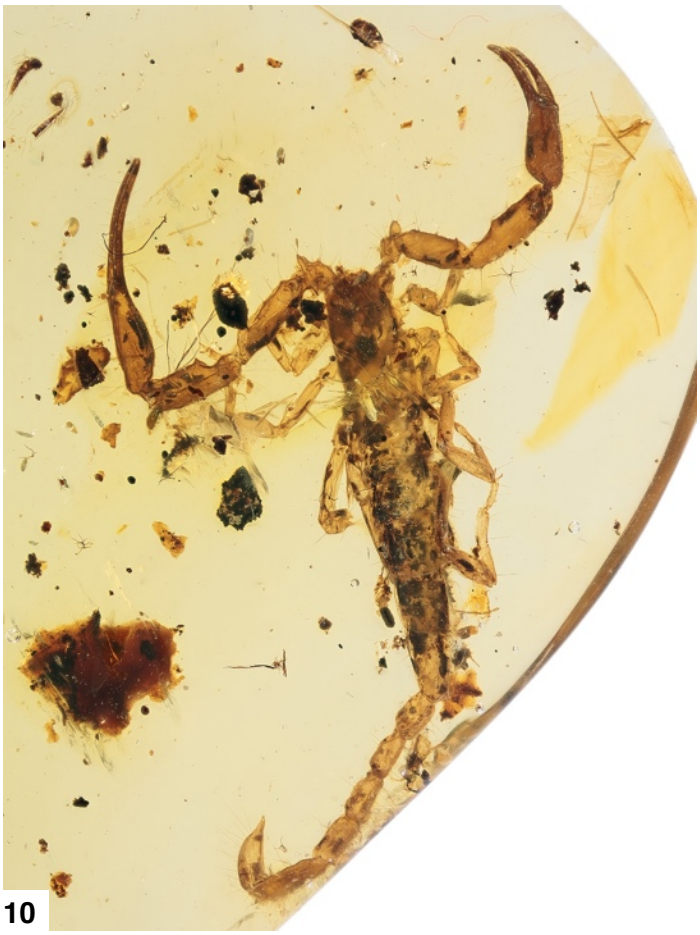

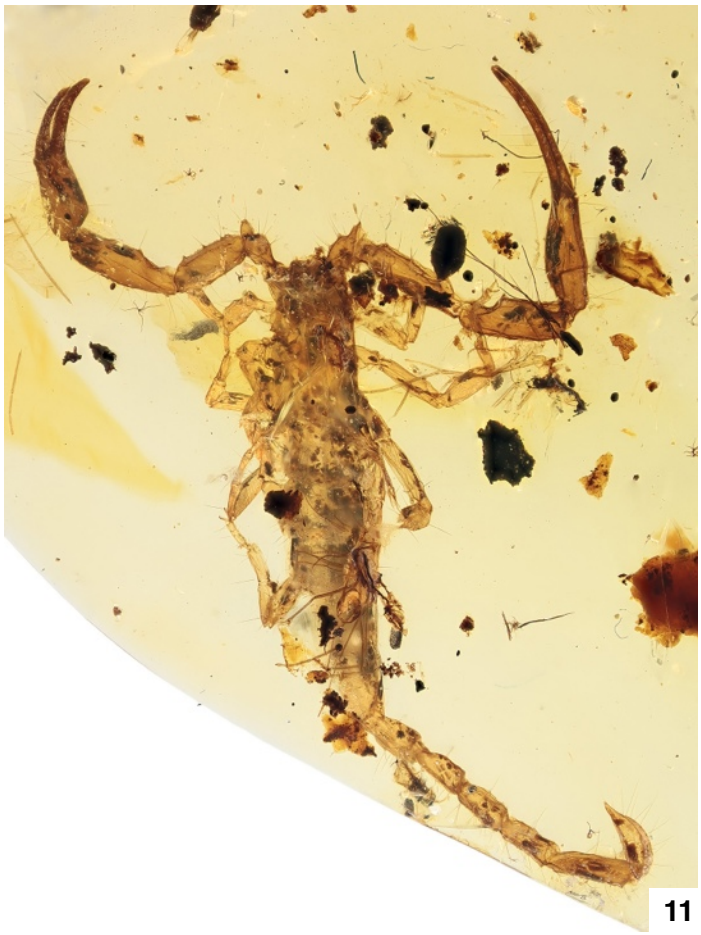

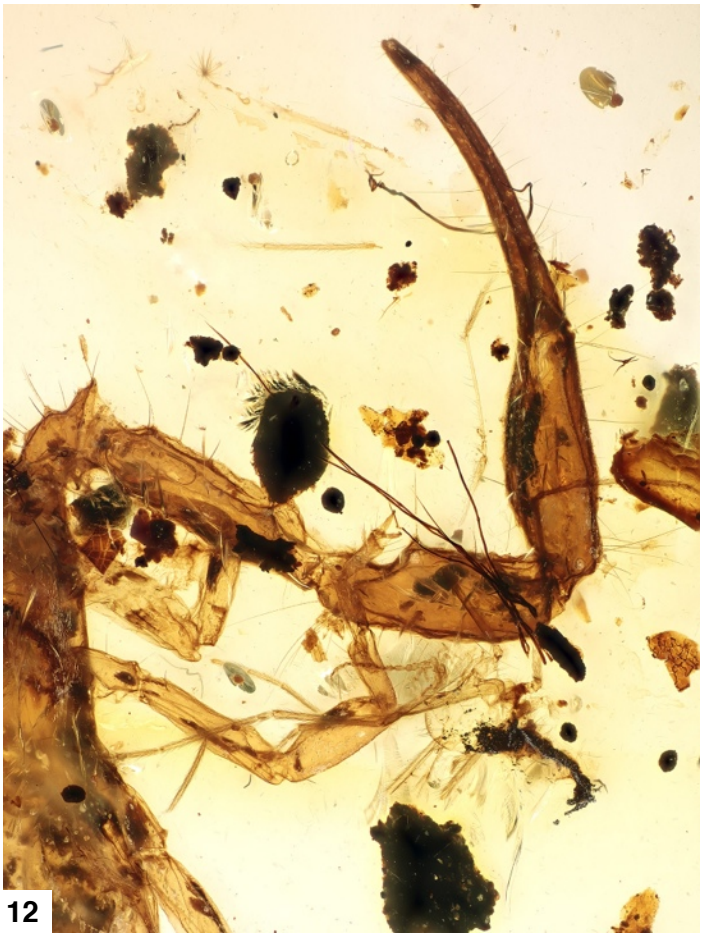

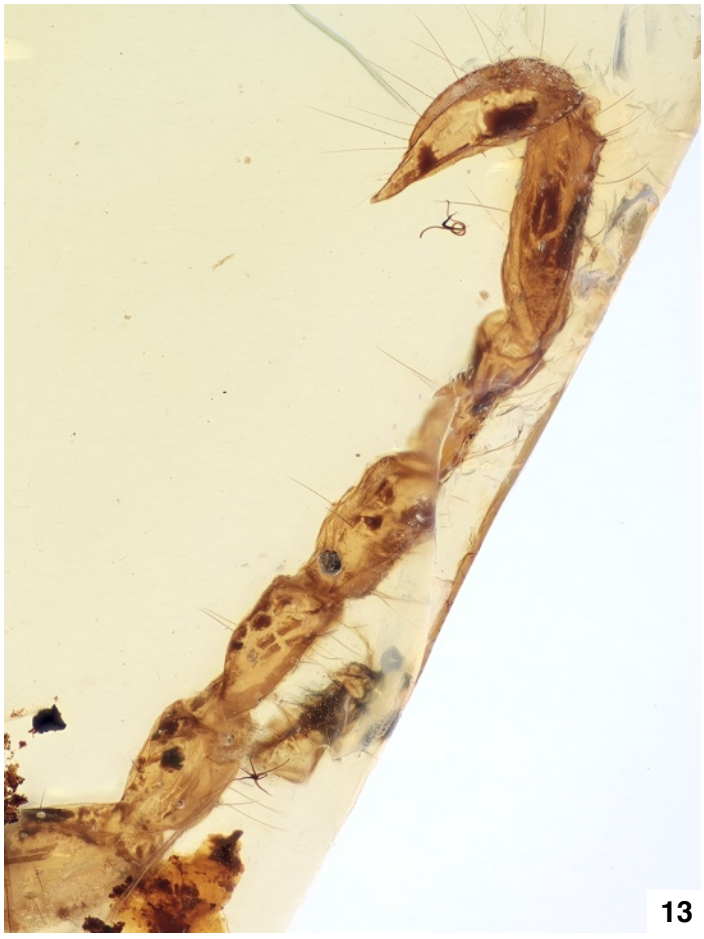

Fig. **10-13**. *Cretaceoushormiops petersi* Lourenço **sp**. **n**.

10. Habitus, dorsal aspect. **11**. Habitus, ventral aspect. **12**. Left pedipalp, ventral aspect. **13**. Metasomal segments I-V and telson, latero-ventral aspect.

Authors contribution [1]

Publisher Correspondence. – WL. *Writing the article*. – WL. *Description*. – WL. *Article proofreading*. – WL. *Bibliographic work*. – WL. *Material study*. – WL & JV. *Author of the figures*. – WL (Fig. 1-9).

[1] **WL** = Wilson R. Lourenço – **JV** = Jürgen Velten.

Résumé

Lourenço W. R. & Velten J., 2025. – Encore une nouvelle espèce pour le genre *Cretaceoushormiops* Lourenço, 2018 de l'ambre du Crétacé inférieur de la Birmanie (Scorpiones: Protoischnuridae). *Faunitaxys*, 13(02): 1 – 6.

L'étude d'un nouveau spécimen de scorpion de l'ambre du Crétacé inférieur du Myanmar autorise la description d'une nouvelle espèce de *Cretaceoushormiops* Lourenço, 2018 et apporte des nouvelles informations sur ce genre. La nouvelle espèce présente des caractères très distincts, notamment une trichobothriotaxie clairement majorante et des yeux médians extrêmement réduits. Le nombre d'espèces connues pour le genre s'élève désormais à quatre.

Mots-clés. – Scorpiones, Protoischnuridae, *Cretaceoushormiops*, *petersi*, taxonomie, nouvelle espèce, description, variabilité, fossile, Ambre Birman.

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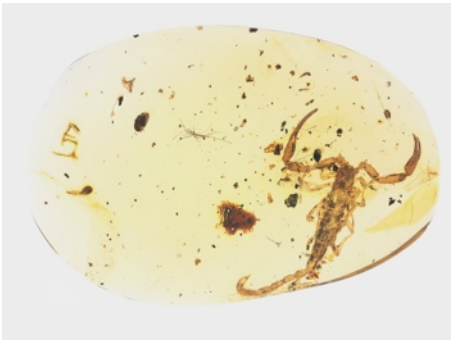

Illustration de la couverture :

Cretaceoushormiops petersi Lourenço **sp**. **n**. in the stone. Habitus, dorsal aspect.

Crédits:

Wilson R. Lourenço : Fig. 1-9.

Alexander Beigel : Fig. 10-13 & couverture.

Publié par l'Association Française de Cartographie de la Faune et de la Flore (AFCFF)